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Editor's Letter

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We are always in flux. Our identities are constantly shaped by forces within and around us; our jobs, our relationships, our inner desires. It is with this idea in mind that I welcome you, with great excitement, to the second edition of the *Oregon Undergraduate Research Journal*. In this issue, you will explore questions of identity, change, and complex negotiations between the self and the other.

In “Abject by Gender and Race,” Iida Pollanen artfully discusses race, gender, and colonization and its effect on the identity of Antoinette Cosway in Jane Rhys’ novel, *Wide Sargasso Sea*. Lauren Goss, in her article, “The Cost of Gender Equity: Title IX at the University of Oregon,” further delves into the complexities of gender imbalances by exploring the repercussions of Title IX on intercollegiate athletics and sports administration at the UO. Finally, we are captivated by Modernist artist and poet Mina Loy’s examination of her identity and ancestry in Jordan Gregory’s article, “A Curse on Your Ancestors.” Each work, written by an undergraduate at the University of Oregon, is not only an example of exceptional research produced on our campus, but a reminder of the inward and outside forces that shape life’s experiences.

Of course, journals too are subject to evolution. In this publication, you will notice several additions to the layout as well as a new journal section. We are honored to present an editorial written by Dr. Karen Sprague, the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Studies and a professor of Biology. We are also excited to include UO artist Mikaela Corney’s print, “Lavender and Honey,” as the cover art for this issue, along with her artist’s statement. Editorial board members Alex Fus and Vishesh Khanna also collaborated to write our first student researcher spotlight, which showcases Jasmine Dickinson’s work in neurobiology.

As an undergraduate on the cusp of graduation and a new life abroad, this issue of the *Oregon Undergraduate Research Journal* reverberates sharply with my own questions of self. It also brings to mind the ever-changing nature of the *Journal*. Soon, the new chief editor will take the reins and guide *OUR Journal* toward new and exciting horizons. Just as you will witness the growth and change of the subjects in this publication, I look forward to watching the *Journal* develop and flourish in the following years. I have no doubt that this issue—so representative of the flux and fluidity of our lives—will resonate with all audiences. Thank you for reading.

*Lucy Gubbins is a graduating senior and the chief editor of *OUR Journal*. Starting in September 2012, she will be working as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Armenia. You can contact her at Lucygubbins@gmail.com.

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